

April 15, 2024

State Election Board
2 MLK Jr. Drive
Suite 802, Floyd West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Petition for Rule Amendment pursuant to GA Regs. 183-1-1-.01

State Election Board Members,

Please accept this respectfully submitted petition for adoption of a Rule Amendment.

Enclosed are three copies of the notarized petition, hand delivered to the State Election Board office. The intent of this petition is to have the State Election Board adopt a rule amendment to consider the different size of counties for the purposes of the number of poll watchers allowable in tabulation centers. Currently, each political party can appoint two such poll watchers in each election, without consideration for the size of such tabulation center or amount of processing. Trust and transparency in our elections is crucial to restoring confidence and citizen oversight of the people's elections.

The request is respectfully submitted to be considered at the next State Elections Board meeting.

PETITIONER:

Julie Adams



STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR SUCH AMENDED RULE:

Under current law, OCGA 21-2-408 (3)(c), generally states that each political party can have two poll watchers in the tabulation center.

The law does not consider the different sizes of a county, which impacts the size and amount of tabulation happening in these tabulation centers.

Examples include:

<u>Spalding County, GA</u>	<u>Gwinnett County, GA</u>	<u>Fulton County, GA</u>
1 Early Voting Location	10 Early Voting Locations	36 Early Voting Locations
51,689 Registered Voters	634,215 Registered Voters	865,540 Registered Voters

The size difference in tabulation centers between Spalding County and Fulton County would reasonably be significantly different. And two poll watchers in Spalding County would be more reasonable to be able to observe the tabulation processes. The tabulation center in a county such as Fulton or Gwinnett County, are too large, to be observed proportionally as comprehensively, with two poll watchers as compared to Spalding County.

Not only the physical sizes of the tabulation center are to be considered. The number of ballots being processed is significantly larger in volume. Larger volume of ballots means that check-in area, duplication of ballots area and all other areas are more widely spread out and difficult to have meaningful poll watcher observations, with only two poll watchers.

In an effort for this process to be fairly observed for counties of all sizes, equally, the proposed rule promulgation suggests that the number of poll watchers in tabulation centers be based on the number of registered voters in a specific county.

Parties who may be affected by the proposed rule:

The counties Elections Boards with more than 200k Registered voters, with larger facilities to tabulate. This rule change is proportionate to the size of the facilities and should be no additional burden on the Elections Boards or elections department employees.

As of March 2024, by county, according to voter registrations, over 200k, are:

FULTON	865540
GWINNETT	634215
DEKALB	580180
COBB	574625
CHATHAM	229000
CHEROKEE	213573
CLAYTON	208868

The number of counties with 100k to 200k Registered Voters is 11.

The number of counties with 50k to under 100k Registered Voters is 17.

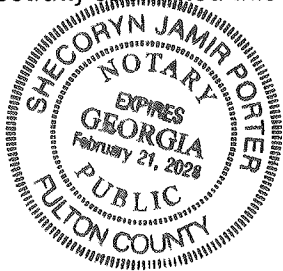
The number of counties with less than 50k Registered Voters is 123.

Amendment to Rule 183.1.13-.05 Poll Watchers for Tabulated Center.:

In counties and municipalities using central count optical scanning vote tabulation equipment, the election superintendent shall allow each political party to appoint two poll watchers for each primary or election, each political body to appoint two poll watchers for each election, **with the exception of counties with more than 100k registered voters, shall allow the appointment of two additional poll watchers per additional 100k registered voters**, and each independent candidate and each nonpartisan candidate to appoint one poll watcher for each election, to serve in each of the locations designated by the election superintendent within the tabulating center. Such designated places shall include the check-in area, the computer room, the duplication area, and such other areas as the election superintendent may deem necessary to the assurance of fair and honest procedures in the tabulating center. Poll watchers designated for the tabulating center shall be appointed and serve in the same manner as other poll watchers.

Consideration of this amendment would allow for equal access for tabulation center poll watchers. Elections are a service we provide for the people and these citizens deserve to properly observe the tabulation of their elections.

Respectfully submitted this 16 day of April 2024.



Julie Adams
Julie Adams

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 16 day of April, 2024.

Notary: Shecoryn Jamir Porter
Exp: 2-21-2028

These are pictures of the Fulton County Tabulation Center, as published in the AJC:



Mike Rowicki, Director of Strategy and Performance Management Office, shows early voting and ballot counting storage area at new Fulton County Election Hub and Operation Center, Tuesday, July 11, 2023, in Fairburn.

